

Message Text

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FROM: REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, XO

SUBJ: IPFC/IOFC TUNA MEETING

1. INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT OF INDO-PACIFIC TUNA AND INDIAN OCEAN FISHING COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT OF INDIAN OCEAN TUNA HELD THEIR THIRD JOINT MEETING JULY 18-19, 1975 AT NYALI BEACH HOTEL IN MOMBASA, KENYA. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS FROM AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KENYA, LOREA, MAURITIUS, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, UNITED KINGDOM, AND UNITED STATES. OBSERVERS FROM IATTC AND ICCAT ALSO PRESENT.

2. MEETINGS, HELD UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. E.A. PURNELL-WEBB (AUSTRALIA) WHO WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN, EXAMINED REPORTS DEALING WITH CURRENT STATE OF STOCKS OF TUNA IN INDIAN OCEAN. IT WAS GENERALLY NOTED THAT STOCKS OF YELLOWFIN, ALBACORE, AND BIGEYE WERE ALREADY BEING HEAVILY FISHED. SKIPJACK FISHING HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY IN RECENT YEARS BUT INSUFFICIENT DATA AVAILABLE ON SPECIES TO FORECAST ACCURATELY STOCK CONDITIONS. THERE WERE REPORTS THAT SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA CATCHES WHICH HAD DECREASED SHARPLY IN PAST YEARS, HAD

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BEGUN TO STABILIZE. THROUGHOUT MEETINGS, DELEGATES STRESSED

URGENT NEED TO OBTAIN RELIABLE STATISTICAL DATA WHICH
COULD BE USED TO GUIDE THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TUNA
FISHERIES IN INDIAN OCEAN.

3. REDUCTION OF TUNA FISHING IN I.O., WHICH BEGAN IN FALL
OF 1974, WAS EXAMINED; HIGHER FUEL COSTS AND LOWER WORLD
TUNA PRICES, IT WAS FELT, HAD CONTRIBUTED TO WITHDRAWAL
OF MANY HIGH-SEAS TUNA VESSELS FROM THE AREA. MEETING,
HOWEVER, DID TAKE NOTE O RECENT INFORMATION FROM KOREA
AND JAPAN WHICH INDICATED THAT LANDINGS WERE BEGINNING TO
INCREASE AGAIN AS WORLD TUNA PRICES HAVE INCREASED IN
RECENT MONTHS. LACK OF STATISTICAL DATA ON THESE FISHERIES,
HOWEVER, PRECLUDED ANY DEFINITIVE CGNCLUSIONS
CONCERNING 1975 LANDINGS WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO AMOUNT TO
ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF LANDINGS MADE IN 1973.

4. JOINT MEETINGS ENDED WITH CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
SMALL, AD HOC COMMITTEE OF NATIONS TO PREPARE STATEMENTS
ON FUNCTIONS AND METHODS OF OPERATION OF AJOINT SECRETARIAT,
AND STANDING COMMITTEE OF COMMITTEES, ON STATISTICS AND
SCIENTIFIC REVIEW, AND ON MANAGEMENT ADVICE.

5. MEETING PAPERS BEING POUCHED.
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